appears to be restricted to the dense *Didiera* woodland between two rivers, the Mangoky and the Fiherenana. Over much of the area it is common and at times abundant, and once its distinctive call is known, it is quite easy to locate as small groups move about through the dry *Didiera* woodland that is so characteristic of the southwestern corner of the island.

In the evening of 19 February 1980 while walking through an area of dense *Didierea* thicket some 28 km north of Tulear, I heard a group of these birds calling, but for some time was unable to locate them, until quite unexpectedly I noticed a pair calling from the lower branches of a tree 10–12 feet above the ground. This in itself surprised me as I too had always believed them to be entirely terrestrial in habits. The pair continued to climb around the branches of the tree despite their rather ungainly gait, constantly bobbing up and down just as they do when walking through the brush. As dusk was fast approaching I assumed the birds were settling down to roost for the night, but after a few moments and obviously aware of my presence less than 20 yards away they became rather agitated and to my utter amazement flew away.

Whereas the female flew down to the ground with a rather weak flight, the male flew strongly and purposefully on an almost direct flight for some yards until lost from sight in the dense brush. This is, as far as I can ascertain, the first instance of this species, or any Mesite actually flying, and certainly disproves all previous statements that *Monias benschi* is a flightless bird. Although not in any way related to the Rallidae, all three Mesites of Madagascar possess well developed wings, and it seems probable that all are quite capable of flight, but that due to their being terrestrial birds of either forest or dense scrub they rarely need to do so.

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Address: D. A. Turner, P.O. Box 48019, Nairobi, Kenya.

A new subspecies of *Anairetes agraphia* (Tyrannidae) from northern Peru

by Thomas S. Schulenberg and Gary L. Graham

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In 1978 we were part of a field party from the Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology (LSUMZ) that conducted an ornithological investigation of the previously unexplored mountains lying between the Ríos Utcubamba and Chiriaco, in the Department of Amazonas, northern Peru. This range, known locally as the Cordillera Colán, rises above the arid Río Marañon valley to an elevation of at least 3450 m. At approximately 3050 m, cloud forest gives way to *pajonal,* a wet grassland with scattered bushes and low trees. In the upper reaches of the forest, from 2950 m up to treeline, we

collected a series of *Anairetes* (= *Uromyias*) *agraphia*. (See Traylor (1977) on reasons for merging these genera.) Prior to 1978, this Peruvian endemic was known only from the Quillabamba – Ollantaitambo area of the Río Urubamba drainage, Department of Cuzco (Chapman 1919, Parker & O'Neill 1980); from the Cordillera Vilcabamba, Department of Cuzco (Weske 1972); and from the Cordillera Carpish, Department of Huánuco (O'Neill & Parker 1976). In 1979 another LSUMZ field party collected a specimen at Mashua, 3350 m, east of Tayabamba on the trail to Ongon, Department of La Libertad, about half way between the Cordilleras Colán and Carpish.

The Cordillera Colán population appears to be a well-marked new subspecies that we propose to call:

Anairetes agraphia plengei subsp. nov.

Type: Adult male (skull 60% ossified); Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology No. 88474; Cordillera Colán, NE La Peca, about 5°34'S, 78°19'W, Department of Amazonas, Peru, elevation 3025 m; 29 August 1978; collected by T. S. Schulenberg; original number 988.

Diagnosis: Breast pattern similar to *A. agraphia squamigera* O'Neill & Parker in having the breast feathers tipped as well as edged with white. Differs from all known populations of *A. agraphia* by the following characters: upperparts, especially back, and all but outer pair of retrices dark olivaceous-brown, not warm buff-brown; background colour of breast whiter with no yellow tinge; sides of breast greyer without a yellow-brown tint; belly whiter, extent and intensity of yellow much reduced.

Measurements of the type (mm): Wing (chord) 57.3, tail 66.4, tarsus 18.3, culmen from base 13.7; weight 10 g.

Range: Known only from the type locality.

Specimens examined: Anairetes agilis (20). Colombia, 6 unsexed (American Museum of Natural History = AMNH 132238, 143574–143575, 176544, 499063–499064); Ecuador, 11♂♂ (AMNH 124625–124626, 124623, 173410–173411, 180462, 183992, 499057–499058, 499060–499061), 2♀♀ (AMNH 499059, 499062), 1 unsexed (AMNH 145874).

A. agraphia agraphia (11). Dpto. Cuzco, Peru: Cordillera Vilcabamba, 12°36'S, 73°30'W, 4♂♂ (AMNH 820544–820547), 1♀ (AMNH 820548); Cordillera Vilcabamba, 12°37'S, 73°33'W, 1♂ (AMNH 820398), 3♀♀ (AMNH 820399, 820448, 820460); 24 km NE Abra Málaga, 1♂ (LSUMZ 78796); San Luís, 1♂ (LSUMZ 78797).

A. agraphia squamigera (2). Dpto. Huánuco, Peru: Bosque Cutirragra, 1♂ (LSUMZ 74301, holotype); Punta de Esperanza, 1♂ (LSUMZ 79704).

A. agraphia squamigera > *plengei* (1). Dpto. La Libertad, Peru: Mashua, 1♂ (LSUMZ 92837).

A. agraphia plengei (5). Dpto. Amazonas, Peru: Cordillera Colán, 4♂♂ (LSUMZ 88470, 88472–88474), 1♀ (LSUMZ 88471).

Etymology: It is a pleasure to name this new flycatcher for Manuel A. Plenge, in recognition of his contributions to our knowledge of Peruvian birds, and of the assistance he has so generously offered visiting ornithologists.

Remarks: The specimen from Mashua (LSUMZ 92837), a locality geographically between the type localities and known ranges of *squamigera* and *plengei,* resembles *squamigera* ventrally, but dorsally the characters approach *plengei.* A specimen of *squamigera* from Huánuco (LSUMZ 79704) shows some reduction in the intensity of yellow on the abdomen, but not enough to fall within the known variation of *plengei.* There appears to be no significant size variation within the species.

In addition to the 5 skins from Cordillera Colán, we preserved 3 complete (LSUMZ 90079–90081) and 2 partial (LSUMZ 88470, 88474) skeletons. The LSUMZ also contains a previously unreported alcoholic specimen (LSUMZ 76902) collected at Punta de Esperanza, Department of Huánuco.

Most of our specimens from the Cordillera Colán were caught in mist-nets. We saw *Anairetes agraphia plengei* in life on only 4 occasions during 3 weeks of fieldwork. Our brief observations on its behaviour are similar to those reported in Parker & O'Neill (1980).

Anairetes agraphia closely resembles *A. agilis,* a monotypic species which occupies similar habitats from southwestern Venezuela to northern Ecuador (Traylor 1979). Morphological differences between these 2 taxa were reviewed by O'Neill & Parker (1976). Although 3 subspecies of *A. agraphia* are now recognized, the distinguishing characters of the species are consistent throughout its range. We feel that the relationship of these taxa are best expressed by maintaining each as a separate species, and by considering each to be an allospecies within the *Anairetes agilis* superspecies.

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Address: T. S. Schulenberg and G. L. Graham, Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70893, USA.